

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2015

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Campbell, LaPointe, Brown, Henke, Suprenant, Idleman, Pitts, O'Brien, Haff, Shay

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Hicks

SUPERVISORS: Lindsay, Gang, Shaw, Armstrong

Debra Prehoda, Clerk of the Board

Kevin Hayes, County Administrator

Laura Chadwick, Real Property Director

Al Nolette, County Treasurer

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Media & Public

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

1. Call to Order
2. Accept Minutes – January 8, 2015
3. Department Reports/Requests:
 - A. Real Property
 - 1) Corrected Tax Bills
 - a) Town of Hebron
 - b) Town of Granville
 - c) Town of Easton
 - B. Treasurer
 - 1) Monthly Reports
 - C. County Administrator
 - a) Budget Amendments
 - 1) Unallocable Insurance
 - 2) Capital Project #117 – Sewer District
 - 3) Forfeiture Funds – Sheriff & DA
 - 4) Unspent Grant Funds – PH
 - 5) Mental Health
 - b) Stale Voucher – Sheriff
 - c) Bonding Resolution – Sewer District
 - d) RFPs – Leased Land – Argyle
 - e) Budget Update 2014/2015
 - f) Efficiency Plan
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

In the absence of Chairman Campbell, Mr. Henke called the meeting to order at 9:40 A.M.

A motion to accept the minutes of January 8, 2015 meeting was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Pitts and adopted.

Schultz Correspondence/Draft Resolutions, attached – Bob Schulz and Judith Whitmore, We the People of New York, in attendance. Bob Schulz addressed the committee requesting consideration of the attached resolutions: resolution calling on the State Legislature to discontinue the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and participation in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers Consortium in favor of an independent state-based approach to the improvement of the education system in New York and resolution calling on the State Board of Regents to amend Social Studies Learning Standard No. 5 – Civics, Citizenship and Government to bring it into compliance with the State Education Law. The reasons why he is requesting these resolutions are all constitutionally based. The first resolution is directed at the State Legislature and explains why the Legislature should direct the administration to stop the testing and the curriculum and the funding of what is known as Common Core. He stated basically the federalization of education in the State which is unconstitutional. The second resolution is directed at the State Board of Regents and it requests the State Board of Regents to amend Social Studies learning standard No. 5

entitled: Civics, Citizenship and Government and does not comply with NYS Education Law Section 801. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Campbell arrived 9:49 A.M.

Additional information was provided to the County Attorney regarding restraining order filed last fall by the people of the State of Missouri to stop the state from funding the Assessment Consortium.

Ms. Whitmore stated their presentation today is about the unconstitutionality. Ms. Idleman would like more time to review these resolutions and does not recommend presenting these at the February Board meeting. She likes that he is attacking this from a legislative point of view. Mr. Lindsay stated he also recommends March and would like to talk to his local school board.

They are trying to get all boards to send resolutions into the State. It is part of a campaign and would like it done in February or March to get to the State by March. Mr. Schultz stated as Supervisors, you took an oath to defend and support the constitution, and feels the Legislature needs to hear from all municipal legislative bodies.

A motion to present these resolutions in the packet for consideration at the March Board meeting was moved by Mr. Haff and seconded by Mr. Brown. Discussion. Mr. Schultz recommended one clarification in the proposed resolution supporting an Amendment to New York State's Social Studies Learning Standard No. 5, Civics, Citizenship and Government should include in the last resolve sending a copy to the NYS Board of Regents. A motion to amend to have an unwritten agreement Supervisors will go back to their Superintendents and School Boards to have a conversation first; need to pull the people in that work in that field, was moved by Ms. Idleman and seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Discussion. Mr. Henke stated talking to the Superintendent is good but does not need to be part of a formal resolution. Ms. Idleman and Mr. O'Brien withdrew the motion and second. The motion to present these resolutions in the packet for consideration at the March Board meeting was moved by Mr. Haff, seconded by Mr. Brown and adopted. Ms. Idleman opposed (can support one but not the other).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/REQUESTS:

REAL PROPERTY – Laura Chadwick, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Corrected Tax Bills – A motion to correct tax roll for three parcels for clerical errors:
 - Granville 97.-2-8.1 Joseph Pelkey, Vet Exemption, Corrected Bill \$1,152.74
 - Hebron 184.-1-21 George Cirtler, Value not updated, Corrected Bill \$1,714.85
 - Easton 270.-2-4 Benjamin Yurschak, Ag Exemption, Corrected Bill \$904.28

A motion to authorize corrected tax bills was moved by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and adopted.

TREASURER – Al Nolette, Treasurer, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Monthly Reports:
 - Sales Tax Report – attached. First deposit for 2015 totaled \$1,145,238.10; \$150,143.27 over last year's first deposit. The fourth quarter 2014 reconciliation was down. Three out of four adjustments in 2014 were down.

- Sales tax quarterly cash report attached.
- 2014 Fiscal Recap - Intention is to start sharing final numbers on smaller funds next month or April and in May will focus on General Fund.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION – Kevin Hayes, County Administrator, addressed the following budget amendments with the committee:

- Amend Capital Project for Sewer District Development Projects – A motion to amend Capital Project for Sewer District Development Projects due to two changes to the project, Oak Ridge reduced by \$2000 and The Quarry reduced by \$20,000, decrease in the amount of \$22,000 was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Brown and adopted.
- To Amend 2014 Forfeiture Budget – A motion to amend 2014 forfeiture budget for the Sheriff to cover renovation project expense in the amount of \$41,200 was moved by Mr. Henke, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and adopted. Mr. Haff opposed.
- To Adopt Crime Forfeiture Plan and Amend Sheriff Budget for the 2015 Sheriff's crime forfeiture spending plan in the amount of \$155,000 was moved by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. Suprenant and adopted. Mr. Haff opposed.
- To Amend 2015 Forfeiture Budget – District Attorney – A motion to amend 2015 forfeiture budget District Attorney for purchase of technology items within his department for investigations and use in the courtroom in the amount of \$3,000 was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Shay and adopted. Mr. Haff opposed. The DA plans to present a spending plan for the year at the next Public Safety Committee meeting.
- To Amend 2015 Budget – WIC – A motion to amend 2015 budget WIC to transfer \$500 from the contractual line item to the equipment line item to purchase a baby scale was moved by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and adopted.
- Amend 2015 Budget – Public Health Recognizing Unspent Funds – Radon Grant – A motion to amend 2015 budget Public Health to recognize unspent Radon Grant funds in the amount of \$18,076.77 was moved by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and adopted.
- Amend 2015 Budget – Public Health Recognizing Unspent Funds – Preparedness Grant – A motion to amend 2015 budget Public Health to recognize unspent Preparedness grant funds in the amount of \$30,227 was moved by Mr. Henke and seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Discussion. In response to a question about what are we preparing for, Roger Wickes, County Attorney, explained how Public Health utilizes these funds for coordination of bioterrorism response activities; i.e. mass point of dispensing drill. The motion to amend 2015 budget Public Health to recognize unspent Preparedness grand funds in the amount of \$30,227 was moved by Mr. Henke, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and adopted.
- Amend 2015 Budget – Public Health Recognizing Unspent Funds Relating to the Child Passenger Safety Program – A motion to amend 2015 budget Public Health to recognize unspent Child Passenger Safety Program grant funds in the amount of \$10,919 was moved by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and adopted.
- Amend 2015 Budget and Contract for Community, Work and Independence, Inc. – Mental Health – A motion to amend 2015 Mental Health budget for 100% state funds received to be applied to the Community, Work and Independence, Inc. contract in the amount of \$6,516 to facilitate the Sheltered Workshop transformation process was moved by Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Idleman and adopted.
- Amend 2014 Budget – Planning to Purchase Binding Machine – A motion to amend 2014 Planning budget transferring funds from contractual to equipment to purchase a combed binding machine in the amount of \$120 was moved by Ms. Idleman and seconded by Mr.

Brown. Discussion ensued on the value level for determining a fixed asset. The County uses \$100 and the Town of Hartford recently raised their fixed asset level to \$1,000. The motion to amend 2014 Planning budget transferring funds from contractual to equipment to purchase a combed binding machine in the amount of \$120 was moved by Ms. Idleman, seconded by Mr. Brown and adopted.

- Amend Budget – Capital Project No. 113 – Homeland Security Grants – A motion to amend Capital Project No. 113 – Homeland Security grants budget to recognize funding in the amount of \$20,000 was moved by Mr. Pitts and seconded. Discussion. The Treasurer stated that most if not all of the Sheriff's funds are for training. The motion to amend Capital Project 113 – Homeland Security grants budget in the amount of \$20,000 was moved by Mr. Pitts, seconded and adopted.
- To Authorize Payment of Stale Voucher – Jail – A motion to authorize payment of a stale voucher dated August 7, 2013 payable to Albany Medical College for services provided an inmate at the jail in the amount of \$86.41 was moved by Mr. Brown, seconded by Messrs. Shay and O'Brien and adopted.
- Unallocable Insurance – The County Administrator stated the nursing services policy which is split between the Jail and Public Health increased on the Jail/Sheriff's Department portion due to an increase in occurrences (the County Administrator will provide a loss run report) and is requesting a budget amendment for \$1,500. He also addressed the insurance expense for arming the Probation Officers and asked if the budget amendment should include that expense approximate \$30,000. Chairman Suprenant stated the policy governing Probation Officers carrying weapons is coming back to committee because the County Attorney has reviewed this policy and would like to address some items with the committee. A motion to amend unallocable insurance budget in the amount of \$31,500 from Contingency was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Shay and adopted.
- Public Defender – The County Administrator stated the Public Defender advised him of outside printing cost relating to providing records for the Slocum appeal. He has already received a bill for \$4,500 and estimating a total cost of approximately \$10,000. A motion to amend Public Defender budget for outside printing in the amount of \$10,000 from Contingency was moved by Mr. Suprenant, seconded by Mr. LaPointe and adopted.

BONDING RESOLUTION – SEWER DISTRICT – The Sewer District is going to need a bonding resolution for short term financing. Possibility of interest free money, EFC, and they have qualified for \$8.7M. A motion to present a Sewer District bonding resolution was moved by Mr. LaPointe, seconded by Mr. Suprenant and adopted.

RFPs LEASED LAND ARGYLE – A motion to award bid to Glenn Stevens, sole bidder, for use of the Pleasant Valley lands for agricultural purposes for a five year term in the amount of \$62.25 per acre was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Suprenant and adopted. The lease will include a no sub lease clause. About 45 acres in total will be leased. The small lot that was previously sub leased was questioned and the County Administrator stated that parcel is not included in this lease.

FIREWORKS – The State passed a law that allows for the sale of certain fireworks and counties can opt-in by enacting a local law authorizing the sale and use of certain fireworks. Only specific items, sparkling devices, novelties, snapper party popper, cone fountain, are allowed to be sold by dealers that register and only during specific times during the year around New Year and July 4th. This would not be regulated by the County. Vendors only get a chance to sell these if the County adopts a local law authorizing the sale. The County Attorney

stated Saratoga County has introduced a local law and held a public hearing where representatives from the fire community turned out against it. A motion to approve moving forward with local law authorizing the sale and use of certain fireworks was moved by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Haff and adopted. Mr. Shay opposed.

SALES TAX MEMO – NYS County Comparisons – Sales Tax, Population, Income - The County Administrator distributed and explained the attached sales tax handout ranking the County in various categories. The median income is based on 2013.

BUDGET UPDATE 2014/2014 – The County Administrator stated wages and fringe benefits make up more than a third of the total budget, handout attached. He is recommending for next year's budget placing all retiree health costs into one line item in the General Fund to reduce the current time consuming process of separating this information and improved tracking of this expense. For example, he stated the WIC program does not cost the County anything however when someone retires it costs us. Why do we do WIC when someone else could do it? When you start to look at the retiree health cost as an expense, you will start to look at how you can control that cost. Office for the Aging is another department we are not mandated to have; we are mandated to provide services but we do not have to do it. Committee members did not express any opposition to moving forward with the proposal to place all retiree health costs into one line item in the General Fund. Open enrollment for health insurance coverage is approaching and starting to get quotes from the insurance carriers.

EFFICIENCY PLAN – The County Administrator would like to be invited to the town board meetings to talk about the efficiency plan. The County Treasurer will also participate in these meetings. The plan has to be filed by June 1st. We have to make best effort to show savings totaling \$560,660 over the next three years between the town, county and villages. 2012 is the base year.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Salary Study – The County Administrator asked if there was any interest in him doing a salary study; department head positions. Mr. O'Brien believes it is a good exercise to go through. Mr. Brown would like information on Vermont salaries included and the County Administrator will try to find information on Vermont salaries for equivalent type positions. He will bring a draft proposal to the next meeting.

Regarding Anthem and their affiliated health insurance plans being hacked, the Treasurer has sent out an email on what happened and corrective steps that can be taken; they are offering free credit monitoring.

A motion to adjourn was moved by Mr. Suprenant, seconded and adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors*